

STRATEGIC CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Residents' Services
Officer Contact(s)	Jo Allen - Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – 2023/24 Priorities

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>This report provides an update on the progress made to date on delivering the objectives set out in the Strategic Climate Action Plan (2021).</p> <p>It also outlines the work undertaken in meeting the 2022/23 priorities to ensure the Council is making sufficient progress towards achieving its carbon neutrality aspirations across its own operations by 2030.</p>
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Live in a sustainable borough that is carbon neutral</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough</p>
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications of this report.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All Wards

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress made in the Strategic Climate Action Plan.
2. Approves the 2023/24 priorities identified in this report.

Reasons for recommendation:

The Council's Strategic Climate Action Plan (2021) sets out the objectives to be taken to achieving the Council's aspirations to achieve carbon neutrality across its own operations by 2030. This is an interim annual progress report in lieu of a full strategic review planned for July 2024, which will be open to public consultation and engagement.

The Council's Strategic Climate Action Plan identifies six corporate commitments and a suite of objectives across nine key themes.

Six Corporate Commitments	Nine Key themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To lead and inspire our residents, businesses, and schools to reduce their own carbon emissions. • To become 'Carbon-Neutral' by 2030. • To achieve 100% clean electricity across the Council's services by 2030. • To raise awareness and develop the potential of young people to respond to the challenge of the climate emergency. • To enhance opportunities for biodiversity across the borough and particularly in urban areas. • To remain open to the opportunity to go further, and to be innovative and creative to exceed the stated goals wherever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1 Community Leadership. • C2 The Councils Own Operations. • C3 Building Better Places. • C4 Using and Producing Clean and Green Energy. • C5 Waste Management. • C6 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. • C7 Carbon Offsetting. • C8 Sustainable Transportation. • C9 Transparency, Communication & Reporting.

In addition, a series of priorities were set for 2022/23 these include:

- Identifying assets to be retained and prioritised for carbon savings.
- Identifying large gas consuming assets and prioritising actions to determine solutions, in particular relating to the Civic Centre property. All building managers are to be contacted to prioritise gas and electricity savings.
- Securing the toolkits and methodologies to accurately record and monitor emissions associated with fleet mileage.
- Progressing work on identifying opportunities for electricity generation from solar power.
- Progressing work on identifying opportunities for tree planting to offset carbon emissions.
- Improving carbon reporting and identifying a consistent toolkit for capturing all emissions to enable robust data to be uploaded to the Council website for public scrutiny.
- Developing a programme of work that defines the targets for all the objectives and action plans set out in the Climate Action Plan.
- Embedding the actions from the Climate Action Plan into the emerging Corporate Strategy.
- Ensuring all objectives and workstreams set out in the Climate Action Plan have a home in subsequent service plans.
- Developing an engagement strategy with schools, communities, and businesses.
- Commencing work on understanding the carbon footprint associated with procured services and work towards securing low carbon procurement frameworks.

The target relates to Scope 1 and 2 emissions associated with the Council's operations.

Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
<p>These include emissions from activities owned or controlled by the Council that release emissions into the atmosphere.</p> <p>They are direct emissions.</p> <p>Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, and vehicles.</p> <p>This includes the burning of gas in boilers for space and water heating.</p>	<p>These include emissions released into the atmosphere associated with your consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.</p> <p>These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of the Council's activities, but which occur at sources that other control.</p> <p>This includes electricity consumption to enable Council operations.</p>	<p>Emissions that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at sources which you do not own or control and which are not classed as Scope 2 emissions.</p> <p>Examples of Scope 3 emissions are business travel by means not owned or controlled the Council such as the purchase and supply of materials.</p> <p>This is excluded from the Carbon Neutral commitment by 2030</p>

With the appointment of the new Climate Manager, seconded in October 2022, a detailed review of the strategy, plans and deliverables, to that point, was implemented. The Climate Manager then created short term priorities in order to progress efficiently and effectively, these included;

- establishing a clear roadmap to help ensure the Council is on track to the achieve the aspirations detailed with the Climate Action Plan.
- creation of a project pipeline detailing each of the nine strategic objective workstreams, with tracking in place to measure impact against overall objectives.
- repositioning of climate message with within the Council by meeting heads of services and related teams across the business.
- Partner collaboration, ensuring LBH have visibility on regional/national projects and at relevant networks and forums to raise profile and ensure we are part of the national climate conversation.

The actions of the Climate Manager has seen the project gain momentum with clear plans to drive forward with the aim of meeting aspirations detailed in the Climate Action Plan.

Progress against the Climate Action Plan objectives has been positive, and the Council has made strides towards its overarching carbon reduction aspirations. There has been a 2.6% reduction in emissions since the previous reporting cycle 2020/21, contributing to an overall 14.5% reduction in emissions from the baseline reported in 2018/19, equating to 1,909.53 tonnes CO₂e.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Council has committed to undertaking an annual progress report of the Strategic Climate Action Plan. Alternative options were therefore not considered.

Select Committee comments

The Residents' Services Select Committee is responsible for the cross-cutting overview and scrutiny role into climate change. Annually, the committee reviews progress on the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. It was last monitored at their meeting on 15 March 2023. The minutes of the meeting are available as background papers listed at the end of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

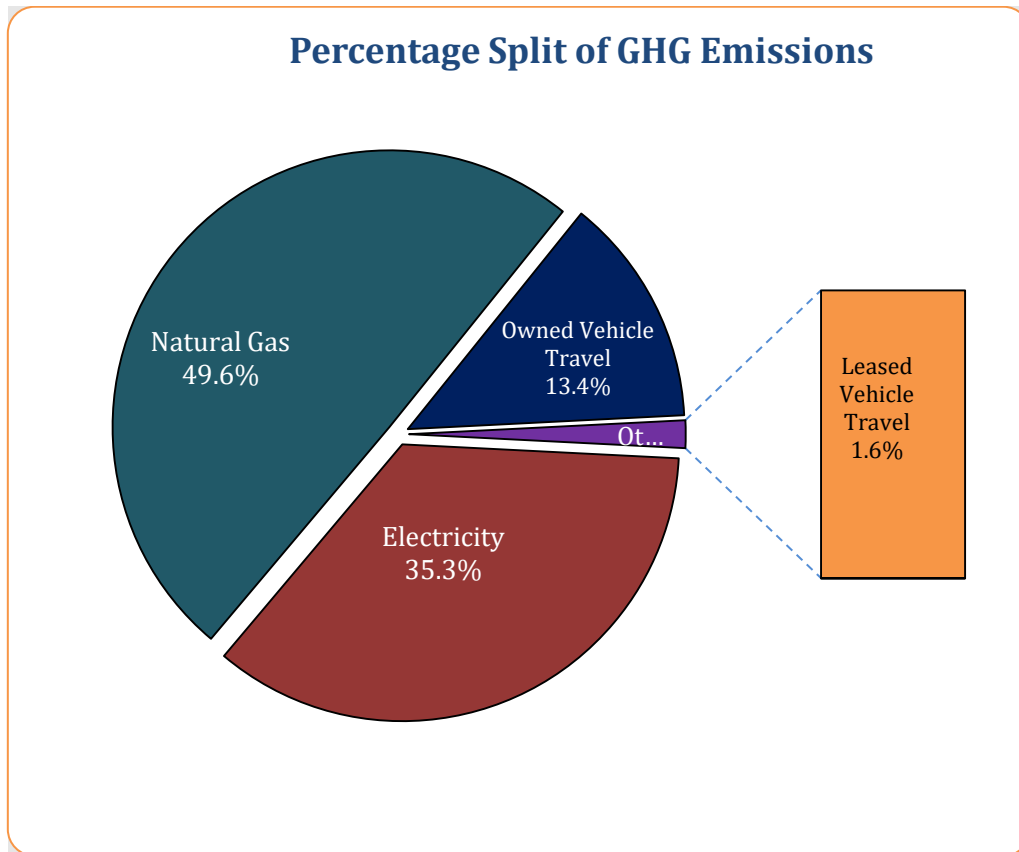
In support of the Council's 2030 commitment to become carbon neutral, an emissions inventory was commissioned factoring in assets that fall under the Council's remit. The inventory was completed in February 2023 and provided four years of data. It must be noted that the Council is responsible for a wide range of services and activities and reporting tools have not always been consistent.

The Council set the boundary of the inventory to be all GHG emissions over which the Council has operational control, and other selected GHG emissions which the Council is in a good position to influence.

- **Corporate Estate:** energy (electricity and natural gas) used to heat and power buildings which are owned and operated by the Council from the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- **Non-Building Supplies:** energy used in the operation of streetlighting, community safety, and other utilities (i.e. pumping stations, aerial amplifiers) across the Borough.
- **Council Vehicle Fleets:** GHG emissions from the activities of LB Hillingdon's vehicle fleet as part of the Council's operations. This includes vehicles owned outright by the Council such as refuse and maintenance vehicles, as well as vehicles hired on a seasonal/ad hoc basis.

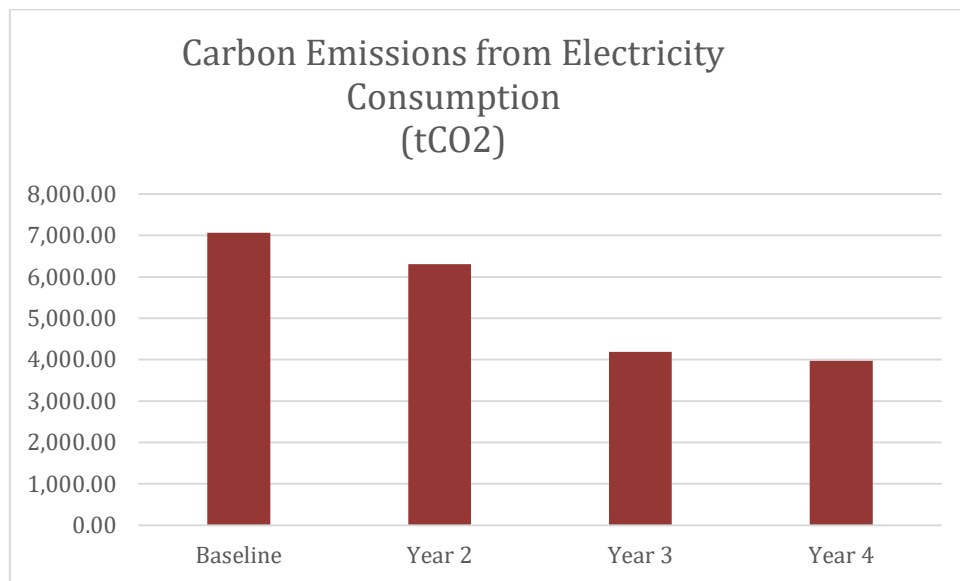
This emissions inventory and associated report are key as it enables the Council to have a view of emission sources, year on year, providing insight into the progress that the Council has made and identify areas of focus for future reporting periods.

There are essentially three main areas that contribute to the Council's operational carbon footprint: electricity usage, gas consumption and business (including fleet) mileage, and the percentage split of emissions is shown below for this reporting cycle 2021/2022.



The following tables and graphs provide a breakdown of emissions by category and detail the carbon consumption since the Council's baseline year of 2018/19.

Electricity usage

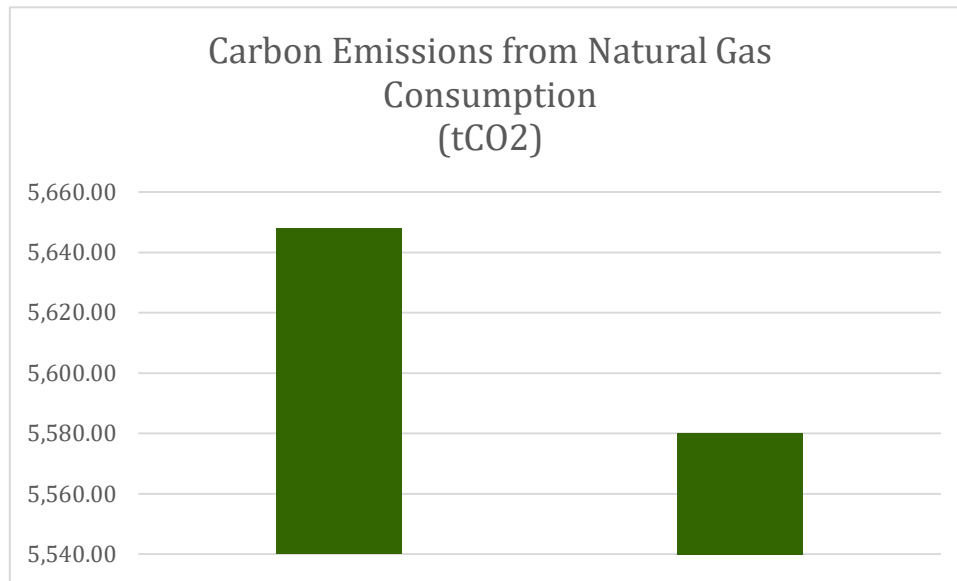


There has been a 43.8% reduction in electricity emissions since the 2018/19 baseline year. This decrease is based on a significant reduction of electricity consumption across the building portfolio, plus a reduction in grid electricity conversion factors.

The Council has made significant progress in relation to the reduction of electricity usage, including.

- Since the commencement of the LED scheme in September 2022, 720 light fittings have been replaced as part of the LED scheme with a further 728 in the current pipeline for 2023/24. One of the schemes, at Grainges Car Park, has seen consumption reduce by approximately 38% per month since installation was completed.
- Sourcing renewable electricity for the property portfolio delivers a positive impact on reducing GHG emissions.
- A street lighting replacement programme has been undertaken in recent years, delivering a 59.24% kWh reduction in usage since the programme started.

Gas usage



Natural gas emissions have decreased by 1.2% this reporting cycle, gas usage has been significantly impacted by a change from estimated to actual metered readings. This resulted in significant under reporting of the actual consumption in the baseline position leading to inconsistent data. The switch to automatic readings was necessary to ensure that accurate consumption was recorded.

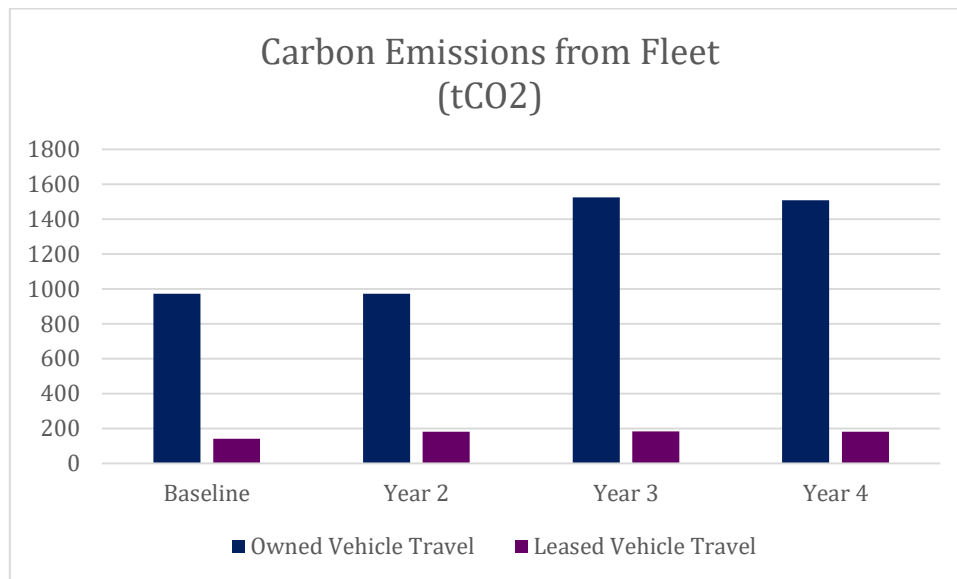
Ensuring the highest quality data available relating to gas consumption is a priority for 2023/24 and will provide a much clearer understanding and in turn the need for greater interventions.

The Civic Centre is ranked first in overall gas consumption, across the corporate estate. An audit was conducted and has identified opportunities to improve the carbon footprint. Designs are in development for a proposed refit programme. The proposals include ASHP (air source heat pumps), BMS upgrade (Building Management System), insulation, double glazing and loft insulation. Once the report is reviewed and proposed emissions savings are ratified a further update will be presented to Cabinet.

Site Name	Electricity (tonnes CO ₂ e)		Natural Gas (tonnes CO ₂ e)		Total Consumption (kWh)	Total Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
	kWh	tCO ₂ e	kWh	tCO ₂ e		
Civic Centre	4,370,692	1,010	5,561,051	1,019	9,931,743	2,028.72

Minimising consumption of natural gas and further enabling the transition to cleaner fuels will be a key priority for Hillingdon Council in future reporting years to reduce emissions associated with this source.

Fleet



The Council's fleet emissions show an increase from the baseline year of 51.5% due to a historic data that was incorrect. As part of the 2022/23 priorities programme, work was undertaken to accurately capture the carbon emissions associated with fleet operations. Results show a 1.5% improvement across the most recent reporting cycle. Supply chain issues have resulted in a delay in the fleet replacement programme and the current fleet of 91 vehicles are due to be tendered during the next financial year, including the options to incorporate electric vehicle within the estate.

The trial of technological reduction measures is currently underway across the fleet, providing real-time reports on driving styles and habits (i.e. harsh braking) which lower a vehicles fuel efficiency. The adoption of vehicle telematics has also been introduced reporting on driving styles and habits (i.e. harsh braking), which lower a vehicles fuel efficiency. Encouraging behavioural change across the fleet can lead to significant reductions in annual fuel consumption. Another effect of this data will be to reduce the amount of time vehicles spend idling, one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions and air pollution.

The recommendation to appoint an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging contractor along with a comprehensive EV strategy at July 2023 Cabinet will provide an accessible infrastructure for residents, visitors and LBH fleet.

With limited infrastructure available at Harlington Road Depot to charge electric vehicles, the need to deliver electric vehicles alongside the right infrastructure is crucial. DNO (*Distribution Network Operator*) capacity is a challenge across the country and the capacity doesn't always exist within the grid to power charging requirements.

Feasibility opportunities are underway to evaluate methods of onsite energy generation to help reduce the cost of charging. These include the merits of installing a large Photovoltaic Generator (PV) at Harlington Road depot.

Corporate Estate

The recent emissions inventory, completed in February 2023, identified the top assets in the corporate estate and non-building supplies. The combined emissions from the top 20 listed in the table below account for over 80% of the Councils total 21/22 emissions footprint.

Site Name	Electricity		Natural Gas		Total Consumption (kWh)	Total Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
	kWh	tCO ₂ e	kWh	tCO ₂ e		
Civic Centre	4,370,692	1,010	5,561,051	1,019	9,931,743	2,028.72
Street Lighting Southern Area UMS	3,047,560	704.35	0	0	3,047,560	704.35
Skeffington Court 1-75	205,592	47.52	2,917,926	534.45	3,123,518	581.96
Breakspear Crematorium	343,082	79.29	2,452,139	449.13	2,795,221	528.43
Fairlie House	85,490	19.76	1,882,944	344.88	1,968,434	364.64
Street Lighting Eastern Area UMS	1,095,953	253.3	0	0	1,095,953	253.3
Colley House	48,582	11.23	993,386	181.95	1,041,968	193.18
Uxbridge Library	480,061	110.95	295,952	54.21	776,013	165.16
Harlington Road Depot	285,783	66.05	439,264	80.46	725,047	146.51
Park View Court 1-60	104,932	24.25	660,612	121	765,544	145.25
Missouri Court 1-42	47,452	10.97	726,794	133.12	774,246	144.09
Mandela Court	18,898	4.37	712,004	130.41	730,902	134.78
Ascott Court	36,940	8.54	636,337	116.55	673,277	125.09
Darrell Charles Court	52,082	12.04	601,149	110.11	653,231	122.14
Michael Shersby House	57,294	13.24	592,437	108.51	649,731	121.75
Triscott House	272,928	63.08	293,464	53.75	566,392	116.83
Wallis House	56,027	12.95	563,080	103.13	619,107	116.08
Barr Lodge	33,103	7.65	570,562	104.5	603,665	112.15
James Court	40,290	9.31	554,303	101.53	594,593	110.84
St Catherines Farm Court	31,621	7.31	531,967	97.44	563,588	104.74

As part of the upcoming project pipeline, building energy efficiency audits will be conducted across the top energy consuming sites. The audits will review key sources of energy consumption such as: lighting systems, building fabric, heating & cooling, buildings controls, renewables and low carbon technology. Upon completion of the audits a centralised list of carbon reduction projects will be scoped enabling the Council to seek sources of funding to implement these projects and start decarbonising its operations and demonstrate progress towards our Net Zero carbon aspirations.

2022/23 Priorities update

As part of the Climate progress report presented to Cabinet in September 2022, a series of priorities were set for 2022/23. Progress has been encouraging and elements with a challenging timeline will rollover into the updated prioritisation programme for 2023/24 and will be reported on in the next cycle.

A snapshot of progress and projects completed or underway during this reporting cycle are detailed below, supporting the Council's climate commitment aspirations and delivery of the 2022/23 priorities.

Projects under grant funding

The Council is able to take advantage of grant funding via a bid process. Multiple applications have been tendered with numerous successful awards achieved, including:

- Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) Phase 1A, November 2020 – December 2021 (completed).
The Council were awarded a grant of £3,862,804. This project delivered:
 - 412 Loft Insulations.
 - 607 Cavity Wall Insulations.
 - 97 Windows.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1, April 2022 – June 2023
A successful grant submission was achieved, and the Council were awarded £1,581,432 to be spent by June 2023 with further co-funding from Council Resources of £2,368,174 to be spent by 31st October 2023. This project is set to deliver:
 - 158 cavity wall properties in the borough.

Other projects

- An extensive street lighting replacement programme has been undertaken in recent years, delivering a 59.24% kWh reduction in usage since the programme started.
- Since the commencement of the LED scheme in September 2022, 720 light fittings have been replaced as part of the LED scheme with a further 728 in the current pipeline for 2023/24. One of the schemes, at Grainges Car Park, has seen consumption reduce by approximately 38% per month since installation was completed.
- A boiler replacement programme is currently underway to replace communal gas boilers, with over 20 sites tendered to date. Boiler replacement in Heathfield Rise, a general needs housing scheme comprising of 36 dwellings spread across two blocks, took place in 2021 and is currently reporting a 16.09% kWh reduction in usage.
- The Trees for Cities tree-planting programme enables environmental offsetting through planting trees to mitigate air quality damage and offset the carbon impacts and helps us work towards and achieve our sustainability objectives. The 2021/22 programme delivered as follows:

- Yeading Open Space: 9,000 - 13,500 whips
- Stockley Park: 91 standards
- Dawley Road: 2,570 whips

The tree planting programme for 2022-23 has now been confirmed as follows:

- Rosedale: 500-1,000 whips and 20-30 standards
 - Stonefield Park: 500 whips and 20-30 standards
 - Philpots Farm: up to 4,000 whips
- Planting outside of the Tree for Cities programme season runs each winter between November and March, and for the last 4 winters the numbers are:
 - 2022/23: 8,479 (currently not including Trees for Cities projects)
 - 2021/22: 11,655 standards and whips
 - 2020/21: 14,288 standards and whips
 - 2019/20: 469 standards (pre Trees for Cities partnership)
 - 2018/19: 601 standards (pre Trees for Cities partnership)
 - The Council remains committed to providing high quality, convenient and effective waste and recycling services for residents, delivery of projects include:
 - Changes to its collection routes to make them more efficient and to support the reduction in carbon emissions.
 - Introduction of a small recycling bag to engage more businesses.
 - Flat/high rise food recycling programme, scheduled to launch following a successful trial in 2022.
 - 14 waste campaigns / roadshows planned for or held in 2023.
 - Reuse workshops for residents in place.
 - 'Pass it On' Scheme, which recycles and repairs walking aids ready for reuse by residents.
 - The use of barriers and trees can help mitigate against exposure to nitrogen dioxide, trapping particulates and aiding dispersal. The school screening programme has seen 39 barriers installed, with the final phase nearing completion.
 - Air quality and health awareness school projects; in 2022 and 2023, this will have been delivered to around 40 schools.
 - School condition surveys have been undertaken incorporating energy efficiency reports, to inform and support future condition works.
 - Commissioning the delivery of a strategic flood management plan to be presented to Cabinet in December 2023.
 - Embedding the Council's Low Carbon Supplier Charter and Low Carbon Procurement Policy into all new Procurements, which will assist with identifying emissions associated with the supply chain and helping to secure carbon reduction.
 - Recommendation to appoint an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging contractor and EV strategy at July 2023 Cabinet; this will provide an accessible infrastructure for residents, visitors and LBH fleet.

- Tender of vehicle replacement programme to ensure that the fleet maintains an optimum balance of maintenance, cost and reliability, incorporating electric optimisation once EV infrastructure is developed and implemented.
- Establishment of a clear roadmap to help ensure that LBH is on track to achieve the aspirations detailed within the Climate Action Plan. Project on a page (POP) views have been created for each of the 9 strategic objective workstreams
- Climate updates presented to Residents Services Select Committee and Headteachers Forum.
- An analysis and opportunities reviews are under way across the borough with a view to further expand the adoption of solar technology across the corporate estate.
- Development of a Project Pipeline for next 2 years for incorporating a project benefits tracker to monitor completed projects, carbon emissions and financial savings delivered.
- Embedding the Council Strategy into the Climate Action Plan.

2023/24 Priorities

A series of ambitious priorities for 2023/24 have been identified and are in addition to business-as-usual operations relating to emissions reductions – for example, flood and air quality action plans, waste management, along with other work linked to the Plan across the Council.

The recommended priorities include:

- To improve carbon reporting, introduction of a toolkit to accurately record and monitor emissions to ensure robust data availability.
- Development of a GHG emissions trajectory tool which will calculate the annual carbon reductions that are required to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.
- Development of toolkits to estimate the residual carbon emissions (carbon emissions that cannot be mitigated).
- To develop a formalised net zero carbon reduction plan, define key milestones and carbon reduction measures (in priority order) on a rolling programme through to 2030.
- Enhance our online content to provide consistent sustainability messaging, providing proactive guidance to residents and businesses.
- To develop an internal Climate & Ecological governance structure, embedding climate informed decision-making (2023-25).
- To embed and measure performance against ambitious targets in our decision-making.
- To ensure that our suppliers reflect our drive to reduce environmental impact and engage with our partners to deliver positive action on climate change.
- To engage and collaborate on environmental issues with schools.
- To engage and collaborate on environmental issues with communities and businesses.
- To commence work on the Council's climate adaptation strategy in light of the importance of the growing threat from extreme weather.

- To progress work on identifying opportunities for electricity generation.
- To develop an internal Climate sustainability training programme for staff that is built into induction for new starters.
- Amplify and share our learnings and collaborate to generate insight and innovation.
- To stay informed, actively participate in numerous programmes to ensure the Council are part of the national climate conversation and are tracking progress against the latest developments.

The scope of work for Q2/Q3 (July to December), detailed below, defines progress made and planned, incorporating the 2023/24 priority milestones.

- A Communications plan to be implemented to ensure that residents, businesses, schools and staff have a clear understanding of our Climate Action Plan vision. We'll use the most appropriate comms channels to share our plan to tackle the climate emergency and look to inspire our residents, businesses and schools to reduce their own carbon footprint. We'll also share the wealth of online resources available, including hints and tips etc, which provide practical advice on becoming carbon neutral.
- Continued partnerships with various like-minded advocates to achieve our climate aspirations, such as West London Climate Emergency Officers Group and London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet). Working with such groups introduces us to other Councils and organisations taking the same journey; such partnerships are a forum for innovation and collaboration, share challenges and opportunities.
- Development of Climate forum as detailed under C1.5 Community Leadership in plan, to develop ideas collectively and to collaborate towards achieving climate change objectives, building the foundations for the development of Climate forum for launch in Q4 (Jan - March 2024)
- Green Walls have been utilised for many years, modern systems now deliver so much more, with research proving their worth in delivering both environmental and economic benefits, regulating a buildings temperature reducing carbon footprint, providing wildlife habitats and improving air quality are a few of the benefits. It is estimated that a *1m² green wall can absorb up to 2kg a year, while a tree absorbs around 5.5kg. Locations are currently under review and market sounding underway. **arch daily article published March 2022*
- A City Tree bench offers a green space without roots, it cools like 67 young trees and reduces CO₂ emissions to the equivalent of 44 young trees, site visits are planned at neighbouring boroughs where benches are in situ, and identification of locations across the borough are in development.
- Monitoring of water consumption meter readings and/or utility bills detailing the amount of water consumed in Council buildings and other non-building supplies.
- Development of LBH's GHG Emissions Trajectory Tool, enabling LBH to set annual carbon reduction targets and proactively monitor its year-on-year performance and track progress.

This tool will enable us to calculate the annual carbon reductions that are required to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2030 by:

- Developing carbon emission reduction targets, profile the emissions reduction trajectory (to 2030) and set annual milestone/Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (in alignment with Net Zero Carbon ambition).
 - Developing target, trajectory, milestone/KPI toolkit for annual performance monitoring (this will be dynamic and will readjust targets/trajectory, based on actual Year-on-Year carbon emissions performance to enable effective measuring, monitoring and reporting on performance against carbon emission reduction targets).
 - Estimating the residual carbon emissions (carbon emissions that cannot be mitigated) to enable the Council to look at its options for carbon offsetting or sequestration (absorption), such as through tree planting, and start to estimate what level of investment might be required for these activities.
- Aim for the highest quality data where available.
 - Develop the process for recording mileage for both owned and hire vehicles and consumption for vehicles which are not under direct control of the Vehicle Fleet Manager and are operated by other departments.
 - Development of monitoring tool to include fugitive emission sources that have not been included within/ since baseline calculations.
 - Appraisal of sites under council ownership completed, to establish opportunities where biodiversity improvements could be made. Under the Environment Act 2021 all planning permissions granted in England will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain. The expected implementation of the new legislation is November 2023. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than before. Appraisal of sites under council ownership has been completed, to establish opportunities where biodiversity improvements could be made. The scope of the feasibility report included;
 - UK habitat survey results
 - Opportunities for improvement
 - Feasibility for each site based on opportunities, possible cost and constraints.
 - Possible habitat units available (assessment of current value)
 - Conclusions and scope for further sites

2035 Carbon Neutrality (Scope 3 Emissions)

To commence progress on understanding the carbon footprint from Council's procured services (scope 3 emissions) and to investigate low carbon procurement frameworks. This is required to meet the motion set out in November 2021 for ensuring, where practical and cost effective, all the Council's procured services are net carbon zero by 2035. This includes:

- Fugitive GHG Emissions (refrigerants): GHG emissions from the replenishment of air conditioning and refrigeration systems across the corporate estate.
- Council employee business travel: Fuel claims for business travel in leased vehicles or Grey Fleet (employees using their own vehicles for business travel) during the reporting year.
- Water consumption in Council buildings: Meter readings and/or utility bills detailing the amount of water consumed in Council buildings and other non-building supplies during the reporting year.
- Other fuels used in Council buildings and sites: Fuels other than electricity or natural gas used in Council buildings and Council operated sites. This can include fuels used in generators and other stationary equipment (e.g. gas, oil, Liquefied petroleum gas – LPG).
- Waste arising from the Council's operations: Waste generated by the Council's operations during the reporting year.

Summary

Overall, the progress made in reducing emissions associated with electricity consumption and fleet usage has been undeniably positive, marking a significant step in the right direction. The efforts to minimise the consumption of natural gas have additionally contributed to this achievement; however, as we look to the future, the Council acknowledges that further action is needed to address the emissions associated with this particular energy source.

Transitioning to cleaner fuels will be a key focus in the upcoming reporting years. By embracing renewable energy sources and implementing sustainable practices, we can significantly reduce the environmental impact and emissions attributed to fossil fuel consumption. This transition will not only help mitigate climate change but also improve air quality and promote the overall well-being of our community.

The Council is moving in the right direction and remains dedicated to actioning decarbonisation. We will continue to push ourselves and encourage others to drive meaningful and lasting change to tackle this climate emergency. We recognise that addressing the climate emergency requires a collective effort, and we are committed to fostering partnerships and collaborations to mobilise resources and knowledge. Together, we can create a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this strategic progress update.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

As the second largest of London's 33 Boroughs, covering an area of 44.6 square miles, Hillingdon Borough contains large expanses of maintained parks, nature reserves and semi-rural countryside providing residents and visitors with access to nature and green spaces. The Climate Change Action Plan sets out the action that the Council has taken to date to reduce its own carbon emissions. Taking action to continue to further reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change will help residents, businesses and communities to avoid disruption to day-to-day lives, and ensure that the Borough is a cleaner and healthier place to live in.

Consultation carried out or required

The Council's Strategic Climate Action Plan was subject to public consultation. This report provides an update on progress against actions within the Plan.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report. Corporate Finance further notes the Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and to reduce carbon across the property portfolio. The impact of individual priorities will be reviewed as part of ongoing work and as part of the wider MTFF budget setting process.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Further legal advice will be given as necessary to ensure that the Council continues to meet its obligations under climate change legislation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Council Motion – Climate Emergency Declaration – 16 January 2020](#)

[Council Motion – Climate Targets Update - 18 November 2021](#)

[Residents' Services Select Committee Monitoring – 15 March 2023](#)

[Strategic Climate Action Plan approved by Cabinet – 8 July 2021](#)

TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – [2023-24 Priorities .docx](#)